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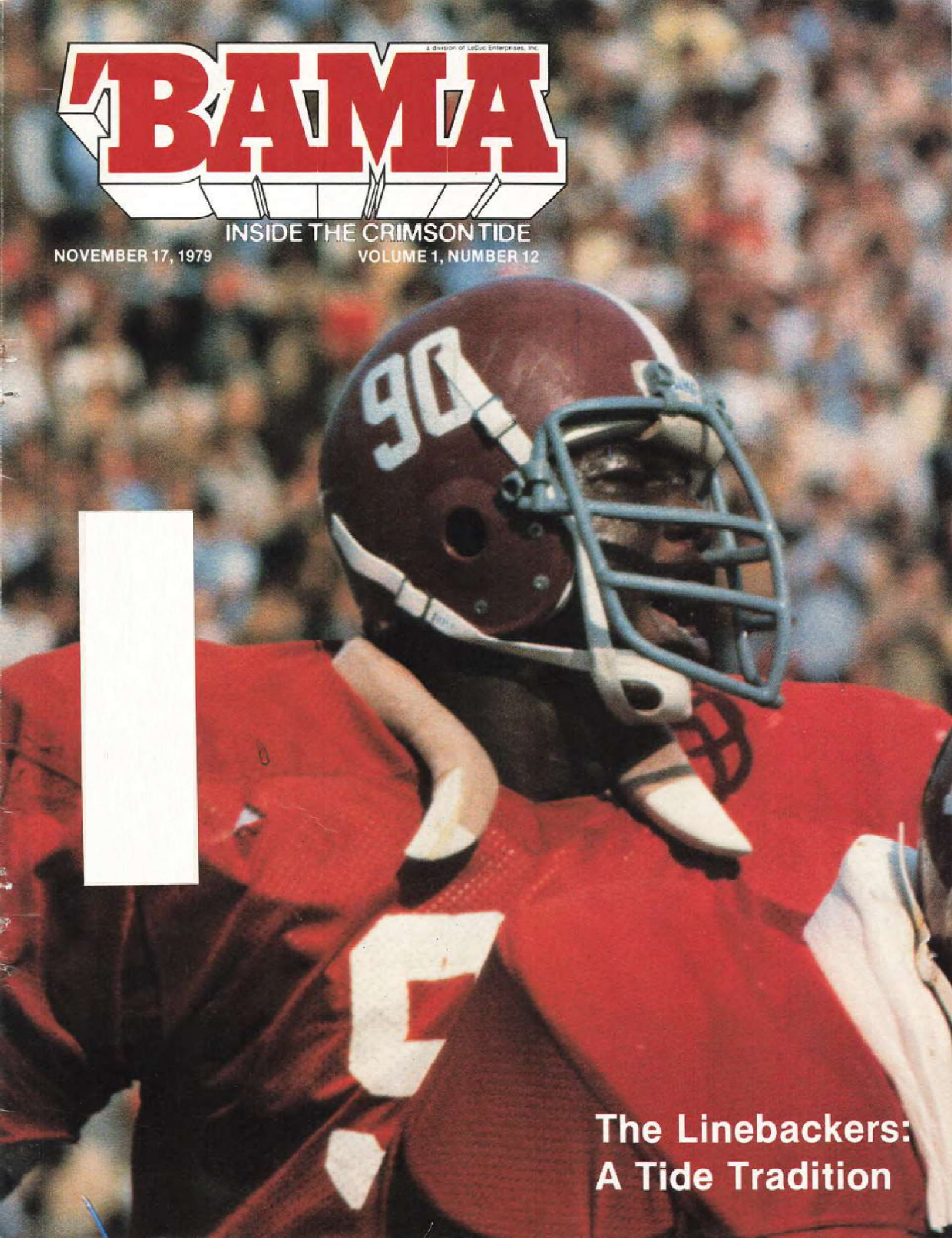
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER 17, 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 12



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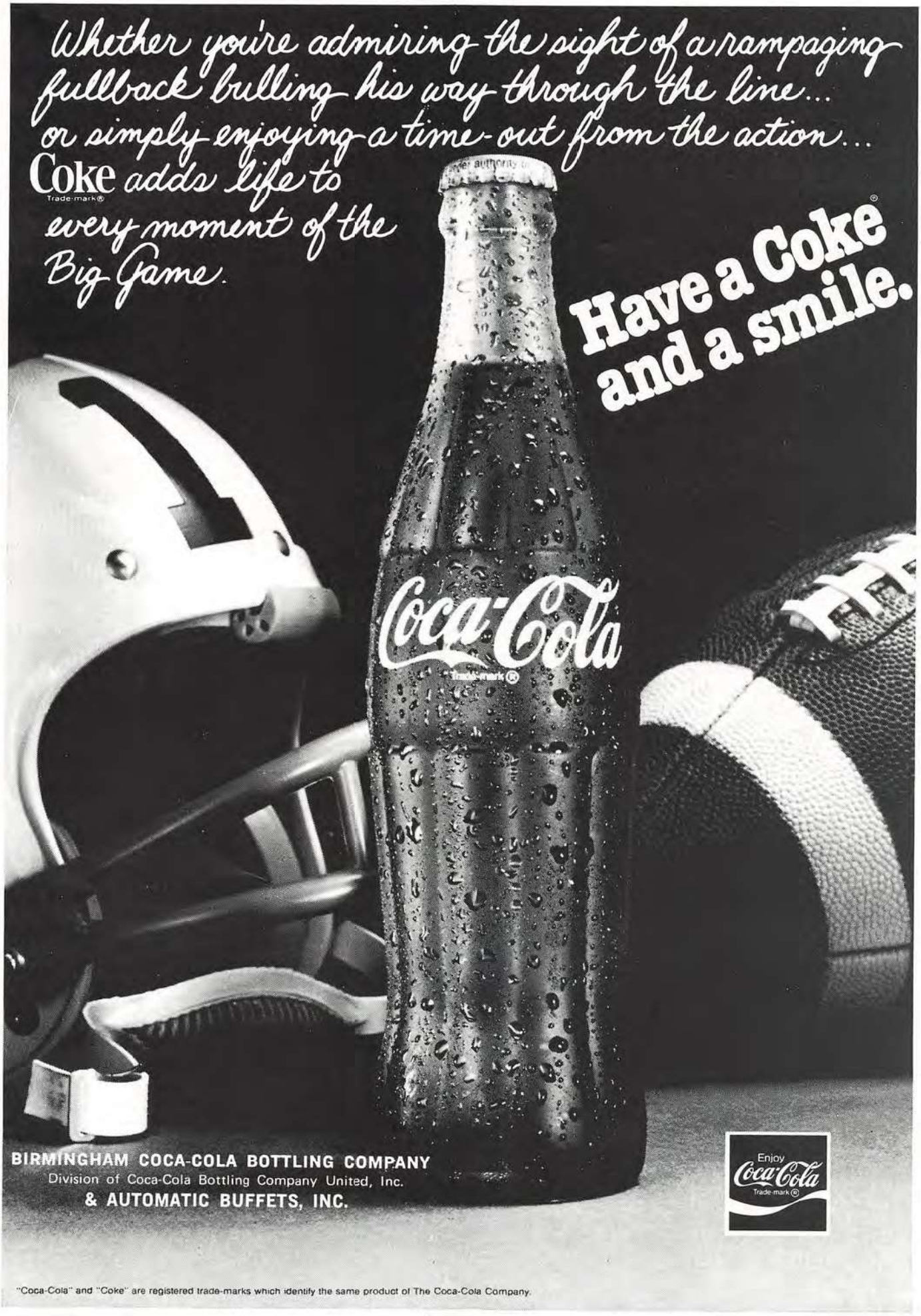
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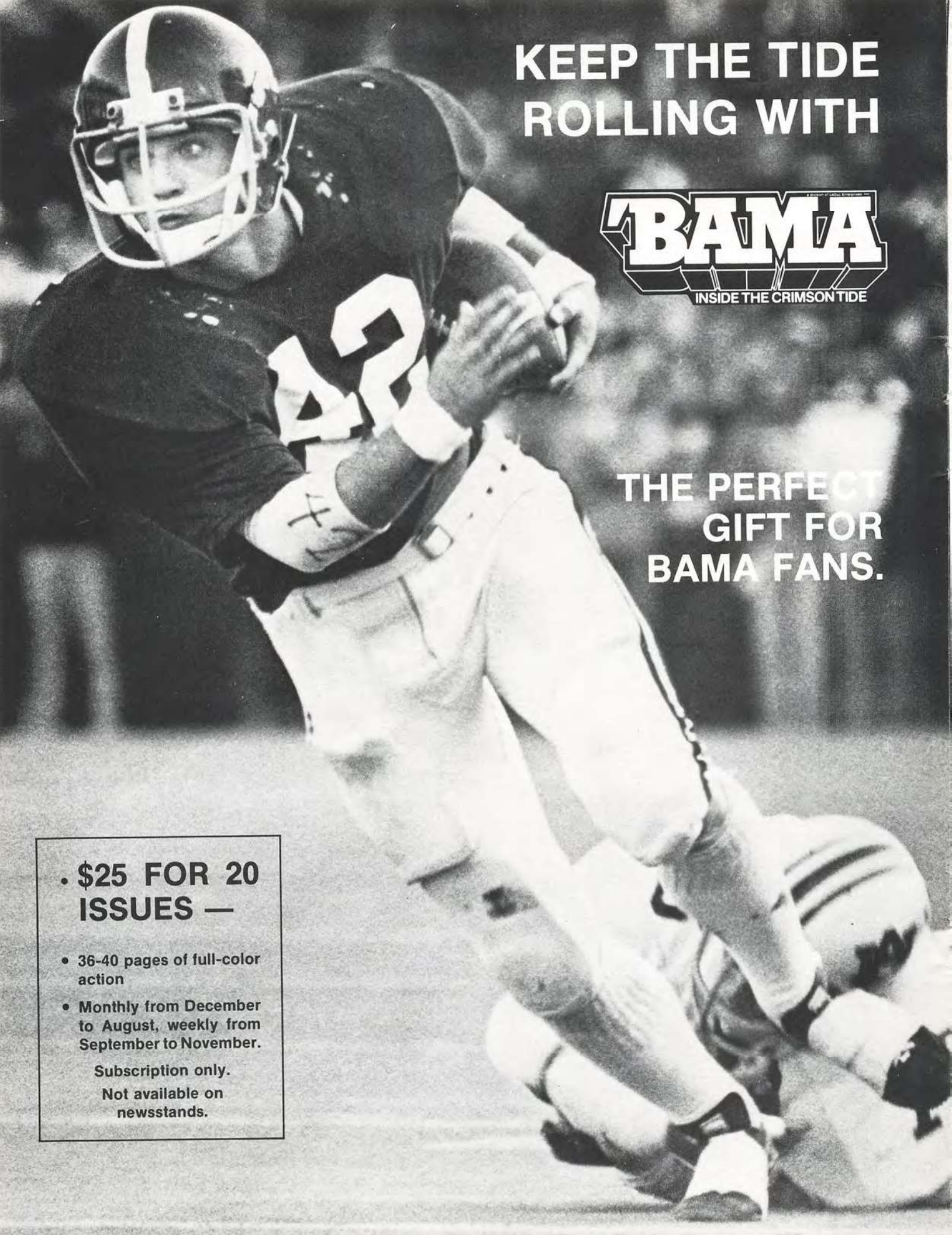
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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On the cover: A prime area of concern for Alabama football prior to this season was linebacker, where Barry Krauss, Rich Wingo and Rickey Gilliland had all departed. However, Alabama's linebacker tradition lives on in a young corps that includes the Tide's leading tackler this year, soph Thomas Boyd

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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Score The Only Thing That Didn't Look Championship

by Kirk McNair

Alabama looked as a championship team should in every way but one Saturday night in Baton Rouge. Unfortunately, that one way was the only one that pays off: the scoreboard.

No one should have misgivings about a victory over LSU in Baton Rouge's Tiger Stadium on a cold, wet Saturday night (or any other time), but the 3-0 verdict Alabama gained over the Tigers is impressive only to those who saw the football game.

Alabama dominated every facet of the game, but couldn't put the ball in the end zone.

Playing under most adverse conditions, Alabama had clearly the best offense, defense and kicking game. And yet, until the very end, it would have taken only one fluke play to have ended Bama's dream of a second straight national championship.

It rained for only the third time in the past 18 years on an LSU home football game. Obviously it was just as wet on the LSU side of the field as the Alabama side of the field and there is some question as to which team the weather hurt most. LSU was leading the Southeastern Conference in passing offense going into the game. Often a passing team, despite the slick football, will be helped more by a wet field because the receivers know where they are going and can make their cuts easier than the defenders. Several times, however, potential LSU pass catchers slipped down making their cuts.

Alabama's main problem with the wet field was players slipping as they made their initial thrust on offense. The Tide had a few bad plays when backs didn't get off the mark quickly and Bama offensive front men said that they had trouble firing off the line. "A few times I went straight to the ground when I made my start," said Vince Boothe. "That's so embarrassing that I would crawl up to where I was supposed to have driven my man before I would get up, hoping no one would notice."

In addition to the playing field, the rain seemed to dampen the enthusiasm of the normally vocal LSU fans in Tiger Stadium. The infamous noise which has made Baton Rouge a tough place for visiting football teams did not have an affect on play except when Bama got close to the Tigers' goalline. But when the noise did come into play, it came in a big way. "We just couldn't hear and that caused us some real costly penalties," said Tide tackle Jim Bunch. "I told the official once that we couldn't hear the signals and couldn't he do something about it. He told me 'They couldn't hear in Birmingham last year, either.' It caused me to jump once and I think Tim (Travis) and Buddy (Aydelette) both jumped once."

Alabama had only four penalties for 19 yards in the game, but two of them were the type that could have cost a football game and the other two were important. Bama had driven inside the LSU 10 to open the third quarter. The Tide then got an illegal procedure penalty, which several players said was a direct result of the crowd noise. Two plays later quarterback Steadman Shealy spent a few critical seconds appealing to the official to quiet the crowd. The official refused and Bama was struck with a delay of game penalty, knocking out a Major Ogilvie run to the three.

The two penalties at the goalline cost

Left, Major Ogilvie was a welcome returnee to the Alabama lineup Saturday night against LSU, but the Tigers didn't give him a very friendly reception on this run. Right, Byron Braggs puts a good rush on LSU quarterback David Woodley. Bama's pass defense also had help from the elements as the game was played in steady wind and rain.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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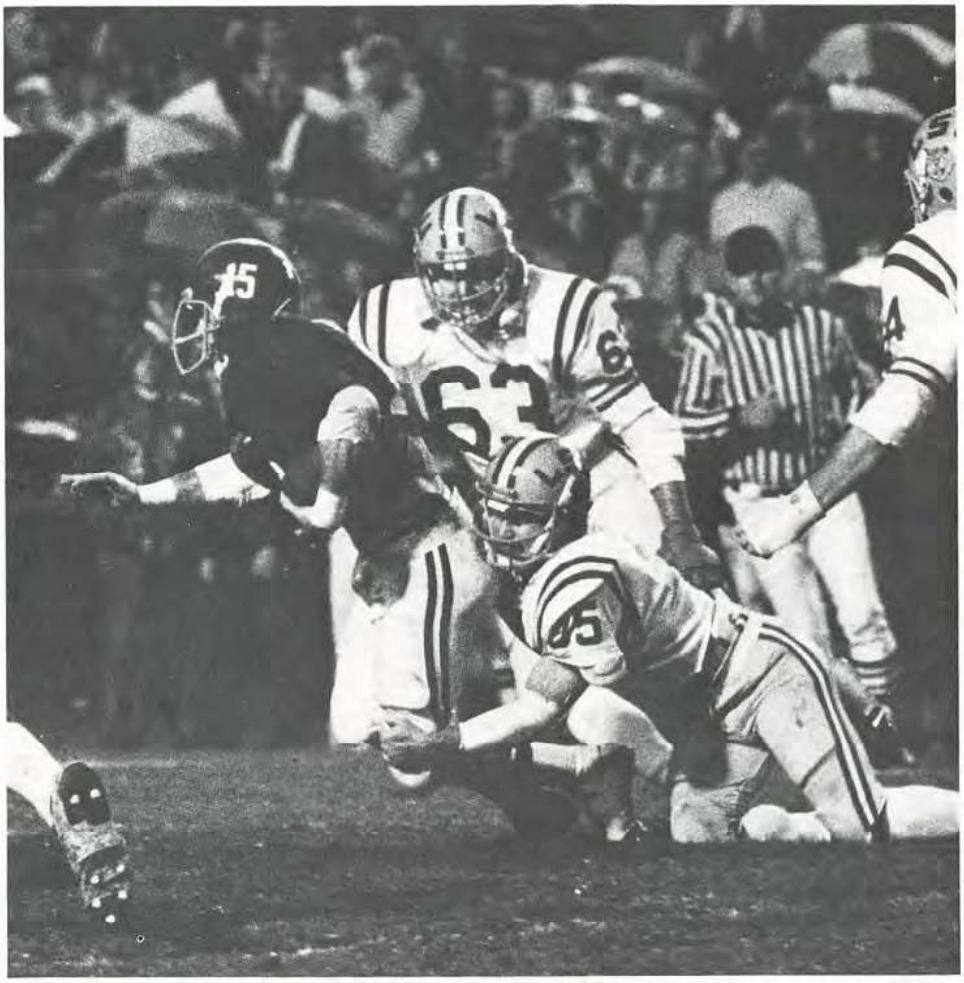

Alabama a chance for a touchdown and brought on Alan McElroy to try a 27-yard field goal. Alan had already missed on field goal tries of 28 and 39 yards and he had the disadvantage before the third attempt of an LSU player being hurt, delaying the kick for several minutes. Everyone has seen defensive teams take a timeout or two to make a placekicker have extra time to worry about kicking a field goal and the injury served the same purpose. Nevertheless, Alan kicked it good and that was all the cushion the Tide defense would need. It was also all it would have.

Alan admitted to being nervous before the try, being aware of having already missed two. He came into the contest having connected on 10 of 12 tries. A Tide fan noted afterwards "The (Baseball) Hall of Fame is full of guys who hit .333."

McElroy said the thick, wet grass contributed to the first miss, that he misjudged the wind on the second try. "I definitely wanted a shot at the third one," he said. "I needed a chance to prove myself. The team was great. They told me at the half not to worry about it. Then in the huddle just before I tried the third one they were cutting up with me." It was the first time that Alan's foot has made a difference in a varsity game's outcome, although his kicking decided a number of junior varsity wins in previous years.

"I'd much rather win by more points, but I believe this one was good for the kicking team," said Tide snapper Barry Smith. "This one will probably go down in history as a classic. Someone will probably put it on one of those cheap records."

In addition to the obvious, the game's only points, the Bama kicking game provided the Tide with what is traditionally a great advantage, particularly under adverse conditions: field position. Woody Umphrey averaged 40.4 yards per kick on his five punts and they were returned for a total of only four yards. LSU started only three of its 13 possessions past the Tigers' 25 yard line. Meanwhile, two LSU punters were averaging only 34.2 yards per punt on 10 kicks and the Tide started only two drives in poor field position.

The playing conditions influenced Alabama to take the wind, rather than the football, after winning the opening toss.

Top, Louisianan Tommy Wilcox (15) came within one final tackler of breaking this punt return against LSU Saturday night at Baton Rouge. As it was, Tommy got it back 17 yards. Alabama was far superior to LSU in the kicking game in the 3-0 victory. Below, Mike Clement's most important play of the game was an interception of an LSU pass in the fourth quarter, but here he makes a tackle on tailback Hokie Gajan.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

That meant that LSU got the ball to start both halves. But while the Tigers got the ball on their 25 to start the game and their 23 to begin the third quarter, resulting punts from those two series gave the Tide the ball at Alabama's 41 and 44 yard lines.

Alabama's kicking game would have clinched the Tide victory a few minutes earlier but for an unusually quick whistle. Late in the game LSU fumbled a Bama punt inside the LSU 10 yard line and John Mauro recovered for Alabama. However, the official ruled that LSU had possession and was down. A check of the films indicated the official may have gotten some rain in his eye on that call.

One of the best things about Saturday night's performance was the return to action of two important members of the Bama offense, running back Major Ogilvie and split end Keith Pugh. When coach Bryant announced the starting lineup in the lockerroom just before the Tide took the field and put Ogilvie at right halfback the Bama team cheered. Major's 76 yards on 13 carries, including a 19-yard run to start the Tide scoring drive, was encouraging. Following the game he spent a long time in the training room with ice applied to his pelvic area, where he has had pain that kept him out of the two previous games.

Pugh was the target of only one pass, which he was unable to reach despite a dive, and was given only few blocking assignments after having been out of the lineup for three games with a separated shoulder. He said after the game that the shoulder was sore from the dive he made, but that he felt good being back in the lineup. Opposing defenses have to respect the pass more with Keith in the lineup, which is a boon to the running game.

Steadman Shealy went all the way for Bama at quarterback as Don Jacobs is recuperating from a knee injury suffered against Mississippi State. Steadman paid for that performance with injuries to his thigh and sternum. He's not expected to miss any playing time, but he was very sore following the game and spent an abnormally long time in the training room following the game. He also spent Saturday night in the hospital, a routine precaution.

The wet conditions make the third option of Bama's wishbone offense, the pitch, the most dangerous and as a result most Bama plays were either handoffs to fullback Steve Whitman or keeps by Shealy, the safest plays. It appeared that several times the pitch might have made big yardage, perhaps even scores, but the Tide had to play it close to the vest, avoiding the crucial turnover. Because LSU is a hard-rushing team, the wet field made the counter option—a play that begins one way, then abruptly shifts direction—a good one for Alabama. Steadman does a lot of things very well, and is prob the best ever to handle the counter option at Alabama.

With Jacobs out, Alan Gray (who has just recovered from a pulled hamstring) was on the sidelines as the number one substitute. Tommy Wilcox could also have seen duty if needed. However, the only time Shealy was injured he took a timeout to clear his head. And despite the fact he wore a tearaway jersey, the Tigers never ripped it to the point that Shealy had to leave the game or take a time out to put on a new jersey. Tide backs appeared to use fewer jerseys than normal because of

Enthusiasm for a well-played football game was dampened by the bad weather in Baton Rouge Saturday night. Tide fans were obviously prepared for the worst and got it as it rained, the wind blew and the temperature fell throughout the game. —Spectrum-Southeast Photo

tearing, although jerseys were changed frequently to put Bama men in dry shirts. Of course, they didn't stay dry long, and it may be that a wet tearaway is more difficult to rip.

While the kicking game and the offense contributed greatly to the Alabama victory, the lion's share of the credit must go to the defense. "It was the best team defensive effort I've seen other than the Sugar Bowl game against Penn State," said Tide linebacker coach Jeff Rouzie. "I can't remember a game in which I gave so many plusses," added Bama secondary coach Bill Oliver after he had graded films Sunday. Bama's defensive coordinator Ken Donahue, a completely dedicated perfectionist, noted that LSU hurt Bama with the screen pass, put in a statue of liberty play that the Tide had not prepared for, "and we didn't always get the pass rush we needed." But, he conceded, "anytime you get a zero it's all right."

While LSU was vulnerable to the counter option, Alabama is almost always hit once or twice a game by some sort of delay attack, a screen pass or draw. With the treacherous footing Saturday night it was not surprising that LSU's best plays were delays. However, while Bama may get burned occasionally by that sort of attack, delays can only be run so often. Almost every successful team will establish some sort of power running game and LSU on Saturday night discovered early that it could not run against the Alabama defense. Although Bama sacked the quarterback only one time for a loss, the LSU running attack could produce only about 2.2 yards per carry. LSU's 2.8 yards per play will usually result in the score the Tigers got.

"I thought we were going to make history," said LSU center Ed Bradley. "I thought we would go 95 yards and win the game. But it just doesn't work that way. I was dreaming. Football players dream, though."

LSU defensive end Lyman White said "We did everything we could, but we played a better team and they won."

The Tigers have the distinction of having hosted—and lost to—the teams that split last year's national championship trophies and the only two teams that have been ranked number one this year, Southern Cal and Alabama. The Trojans pulled out a 17-12 victory over LSU with a last minute touchdown. LSU players were asked the obvious, to compare the two teams, and most said there was little difference, that both were great teams with Bama perhaps the quicker team.

As the end of the season draws closer the bowl and poll questions become more and more important. It's almost inconceivable that a team of Auburn's talent could lose to a Georgia team that has been defeated by a host of weak sisters. Nevertheless, the Bulldogs keep winning in the games that matter for the SEC championship and Sugar Bowl berth and it must be considered a very real possibility that Georgia will defeat Auburn Saturday and clinch the spot in New Orleans New Year's Day.

There had been speculation last week that Georgia might decline the invitation because of its overall poor record, but that seems highly unlikely. SEC Commissioner Boyd McWhorter would certainly put pressure on Georgia (the school where he taught and was faculty chairman of athletics before taking over the conference post) to accept the bid, putting two SEC teams in major (and money-making) bowl games. Beyond that, Georgia head coach Vince Dooley is undoubtedly using the opportunity for the SEC championship and Sugar Bowl bid as a motivating factor for his team this week. He could hardly do that and then tell his players that they weren't going to the Sugar Bowl after all.

Assuming that Alabama defeats Miami, the Tide will then sit back and wait on the inevitable Orange Bowl invitation. That gives the Orange Bowl the chance at matching the nation's number one and number two teams.

Alabama's 3-0 victory over LSU didn't strengthen the Tide's stance with the voters in the polls. Should Ohio State defeat Michigan and the Rose Bowl have a match of undefeated teams (Southern Cal has a tie, not a loss), there would be some sentiment to make that the national championship game if Alabama was in the Sugar Bowl against a conference runnerup from the Big Eight or Southwest. However, if Alabama is number one and playing against the Big Eight champion, a Tide win would almost assure a second straight national title.

It was obvious from shortly after last year's Sugar Bowl game that Bama's schedule this year would permit the Tide no mistakes; and, more than that, some others would probably have to get a blemish. Southern Cal, which annually has more talent than any other team, fortunately almost always slips against someone and the tie the Trojans gave up to Stanford was just the wedge that Alabama needed to take the top spot. Once in the number one position it's awfully difficult to lose it without losing a game.

Bama could almost certainly get an easier opponent in the Sugar Bowl than the Big Eight champion that will host the Orange Bowl, whether it be Nebraska or Oklahoma (to be decided November 24). However, a national champion should be able to defeat the top competition available, as the Tide did in last year's Sugar Bowl.★

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Jayvees Unbeaten

The Alabama junior varsity stayed undefeated last weekend and, as the varsity, did it by the foot. Peter Trodd, a walk-on placekicker from Eufaula (and before that from England), hit three soccer-style kicks to give the jayvees a 9-7 win over Marion Institute at Marion Friday night.

Trodd hit on three-pointers of 20 yards in the first quarter and 22 and 28 yards in the fourth quarter.

The Bama jayvees did most of their damage on the ground, picking up 302 yards rushing and only eight yards passing.

Alabama's Roosevelt Wilder led all rushers with 81 yards on 27 carries, while Steve Rhoden had 71 yards on 19 attempts.

Jerrill Sprinkle had two of the four pass interceptions turned in by the Tide. Johnny Brooker recovered a fumble which led to the first Bama field goal.

Marion scored its touchdown late in the first quarter.

Alabama closes out its junior varsity play November 24 against Auburn.

Alabama had 14 first downs to only nine for Marion. The Tide jayvees were penalized only five yards in the game.

ALABAMA STATISTICS VS. LSU

RUSHING	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Long
Whitman	22	95	0	95	0	9
Ogilvie	13	78	2	76	0	19
Shealy	25	92	30	62	0	16
Jackson	6	13	0	13	0	5
Ferguson	3	4	0	4	0	2
Nix	2	2	0	2	0	2
BAMA TOTALS	71	284	32	252	0	19
LSU TOTALS	30	83	16	67	0	13

PASSING	Att-Comp-Int	Yards	TD	Long
Shealy	8- 2 - 1	26	0	15
LSU TOTALS	29- 11 - 2	97	0	17

SCORE BY QUARTERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	--	Final
Alabama	0	0	3	0	--	3
LSU	0	0	0	0	--	0

SCORING:

Ala -- McElroy, 27 field goal

TACKLE LEADERS	Solo	Assist	Total
Braggs	6	1	7
Scott	5	2	7
Junior	5	1	6
Hannah	5	1	6
Tucker	5	0	5
Boyd	3	1	4
Harris	3	1	4
R. Jones	2	2	4
Wilcox	3	0	3
McGriff	0	2	2
Lyles	1	0	1
Clements	1	0	1
Aydelette	1	0	1
Aydelette	1	0	1
Simon	1	0	1
Ferguson	1	0	1
DeNiro	1	0	1
Hamilton	0	1	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Travis	2	26	0	15

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Umphrey	5	202	40.4	48
LSU TOTALS	10	342	34.2	46

ALL RETURNS	Punts No.	Punts Yds.	Kickoffs No.	Kickoffs Yds.	Int'c'ns No.	Int'c'ns Yds.
Wilcox	4	23				
Clements					1	3
Harris					1	0
BAMA TOTALS	4	23	0	0	2	3
LSU TOTALS	2	4	3	53	1	13

TEAM STATISTICS	BAMA	LSU
First Downs	19	9
Rushing	18	2
Passing	1	6
Penalty	0	1
Total Offensive Plays	79	59
Total Net Yards	278	164
Average Gain Per Play	3.5	2.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	4-19	2-10
Time Of Possession	35:13	24:47
Third Down Conversions	11-20	3-15

TACKLES FOR LOSS	No.	Yards
Hannah	1	6
Junior	1	4
Scott	1	1
Boyd	1	1
R. Jones	1	1

PASSES BROKEN UP	No.
Braggs	1
Junior	1
Tucker	1
McNeal	1
Bob Smith	1

COACH BRYANT ON BAMA

"Needless to say, I'm very happy and proud for our team. In fact, I've never been prouder of them. I'd like to say publicly that they won this one in spite of me; and they have won a lot of them in spite of me.

"I could have stayed home and they would have done a lot better in this one.

"Although a lot of people will say it, you can't say the defense won the game because everybody contributed.

"I can't say enough about LSU. Charlie had them like I expected, ready to play. But maybe we just had the best personnel. Charlie had his team prepared five times better than I did.

"I'm proud of our coaches and again I'm proud of our players. They all played well.

"Mal Moore had the game. He's been in charge of the LSU game for a number of years now and he knows a lot about them.

"Now we've got a tough one. Howard Schnellenberger was a player for us at Kentucky and on our staff here at Alabama and he's a football man. He knows what he's doing. He's spent a lot of time in the pros and he'll bring a pro-type game in here, offensively and defensively. They have an excellent passing game. They went up to Penn State and started a freshman from Pennsylvania for the first time and he had the game out of reach before you knew it. We're not going to beat them unless we rush the passer better than we have.

"Usually it's better to play a team that has a lot of outstanding players late in the year because some of them will get hurt. But Miami had their injuries early, got them back, and now they've had a week off to get ready for us."

ALABAMA DEPTH CHART VS. LSU

Alabama used only 48 men against LSU, the Tide's lowest total in a long time. The Tide had 18 on offense, 17 on defense and 13 on the kicking teams. Of the 48 playing eight were freshmen, including three true freshmen. Although a few men played at more than one position, this shows only the first position played. Starters are listed first.

OFFENSE

Split End: Keith Pugh, Keith Marks
Left Tackle: Buddy Aydelette, Eddie McCombs 'nce Cowell
Left Guard: Mike Brock
Center: Dwight Stephenson
Right Guard: Vince Boothe
Right Tackle: Jim Bunch
Tight End: Tim Travis, Bart Krout
Quarterback: Steadman Shealy
Left Halfback: Billy Jackson, Mitch Ferguson
Right Halfback: Major Ogilvie, Mark Nix, Jeff Fagan
Fullback: Steve Whitman, John Hill

DEFENSE

Left End: Wayne Hamilton, Gary DeNiro
Left Tackle: Byron Braggs
Middle Guard: Curtis McGriff, Warren Lyles
Right Tackle: David Hannah, Jackie Cline
Right End: E. J. Junior
Strongside Linebacker: Randy Scott
Weakside Linebacker: Robbie Jones, Thomas Boyd
Left Halfback: Don McNeal
Right Halfback: Mike Clements
Strong Safety: Tommy Wilcox, Jim Bob Harris, Bobby Smith
Safety: Ricky Tucker

SPECIALTY TEAMS

Punter: Woody Umphrey
Placekicker: Alan McElroy
Snapper: Barry Smith

Returns and Coverage: Scott Allison, Joe Robbins, Wiley Barnes, Buddy Holt, Ken Simon, Benny Perrin, John Mauro, Larry Brown, Mike Pitts, James Haney

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The Linebackers:

A Great Alabama Tradition

by Hank Brownstone

Linebacker.

The mere mention of the word conjures up thoughts of violence. Mobile, agile and hostile rolled into one — an animal dressed in shoulder pads and helmet.

But when linebackers are mentioned in conversations about University of Alabama football, another word comes to the front.

TRADITION, loads of it, built by young men who are not judged simply by tackles, rather by a standard set by the greatest linebacker in Crimson Tide history, the forever-remembered Lee Roy Jordan.

"If runners stayed between the sidelines, Lee Roy tackled them," Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant said after watching Jordan earn All-America as a junior and senior in 1961 and 1962. "He took it as an insult if he was not around the ball."

Jordan, who left Alabama to become one of the best linebackers in the National Football League with the Dallas Cowboys, looks back on his days with the Crimson Tide with pride, his smile broadening at the mention that perhaps current linebackers like junior Randy Scott, sophomore Thomas Boyd, freshman Robbie Jones and freshman Ricky Rozzell recall his name and long for the day their's will be mentioned with equal reverence.

"I take a lot of pride in the fact coach Bryant and others have made the position of linebacker an Alabama tradition," Jordan said before watching the Crimson Tide beat Virginia Tech 31-7 at homecoming. "And I certainly hope people like Darwin Holt (1959-61) and myself had something to do with making that possible.

"Do I wish they had retired (my jersey) number 54? No, not at all. When something is retired, it is dead and gone forever. Personally, I love to see a guy pull on that jersey and wear it the way I did.

"I still have my last game jersey hanging in my closet at home. Sometimes I look at it and remember. I hope it represents something in the Alabama tradition. I hope there are players at Alabama who think it is something special."

Alabama linebacker Randy Scott (50) keeps his feet and gives chase that will end, more than likely, in a solid tackle. Byron Braggs (47) gives help from below. —Joel Barnes Photo

They wear different numbers, but number 50 Scott, number 90 Boyd, number 97 Jones and number 36 Rozzell all agree they play in a position that drips freely of nostalgia. They concur that there is something legendary about pulling on a red jersey and quarterbacking a defense.

"There is a feeling of both pride and pressure in being a linebacker at Alabama," says Scott, a 6-foot-1, 205-pound junior from Decatur, Georgia. "In a way, you have to lead the team. A linebacker should be in on every play. He has to be smart and he has to be a hitter."

Scott established himself as one of the hardest hitters on the Alabama team as a freshman. As a sophomore, he was the number 4 linebacker behind Barry Krauss, Rich Wingo and Rickey Gilliland. Krauss and Wingo, of course, now play for the Baltimore Colts and Green Bay Packers, respectively.

"I know it's a good lick when the runner is on his back behind the line of scrimmage," Scott says. "I can feel a solid lick and the runner can, too.

"It's a good feeling to get up from the ground when a runner is laying there under you.

"If there is a rugged image, I like it."

While Scott plays with choo-choo train style — toot-toot, blam! — Boyd plays with the flair of a cat burglar — slipping blocks and running quickly toward earth-shaking collisions. Lean and hungry is the 6-foot-3, 200-pound sophomore from Huntsville.

"I had a teacher in high school who used to tell me about the linebacker tradition at Alabama, but it never meant that much to me until I got here," says Boyd, the leading tackler on the Alabama team this season. "Now I understand what made them all pros.

"But when I got here, all I wanted to do was play. Now I just want to learn to play better. I want to get better doing the little things. The tackles look good, but the little things that go unnoticed make linebackers great.

"There have always been the Jordans, Mike Halls and (Woodrow) Lowes. Everybody knows about them and what they did. I think the time has come for some of us guys to become known as great Alabama linebackers."

It is with that in mind that Boyd finds himself dreaming while looking at pictures of Alabama All-Americas in a Memorial Coliseum hallway leading to the football dressing rooms.

"I look at those pictures and think about what all those guys accomplished," Boyd says. "Do I want to see my picture up there? Sure, but I've got to learn how to master the little things first. Then the big things will come naturally."

Usually in the middle of the action, linebackers grade their accomplishments hard. They are constantly in search of an example of championship technique, a blueprint of sorts, and Jones thinks they found one during the 1979 Sugar Bowl.

"I'm impressed every time I look at a picture of that goal line stand we used stopping Penn State," Jones says. "In fact, I'm thinking about buying one for myself.

"You talk about filling the hole. Krauss and Wingo played those two plays (from inside a yard) perfectly."

Jones, 6-foot-3, 205 pounds and from Demopolis, is a redshirt freshman who practiced last season at defensive end. He can take a man down Memory Lane about as fast as he gets to running backs.

"Thinking about all the All-Americas and all-Pros who have been here makes me want to do well," Jones says. "People like Lee Roy, Woodrow Lowe (now playing with the San Diego Chargers), Wingo, Krauss and the others who have played linebacker at Alabama have given us all something to shoot at."

While he ranks last among the top four linebackers in tackles, Rozzell, a 6-foot-1, 208-pound freshman from Jackson, Mississippi., might have already established the best story in the group. He once suffered from a rare leg disease and was on crutches for almost three years from the age of eight.

"I never really doubted I would be able to play football," Rozzell says. "My dad (a former Pittsburgh Steeler) made me keep pushing."

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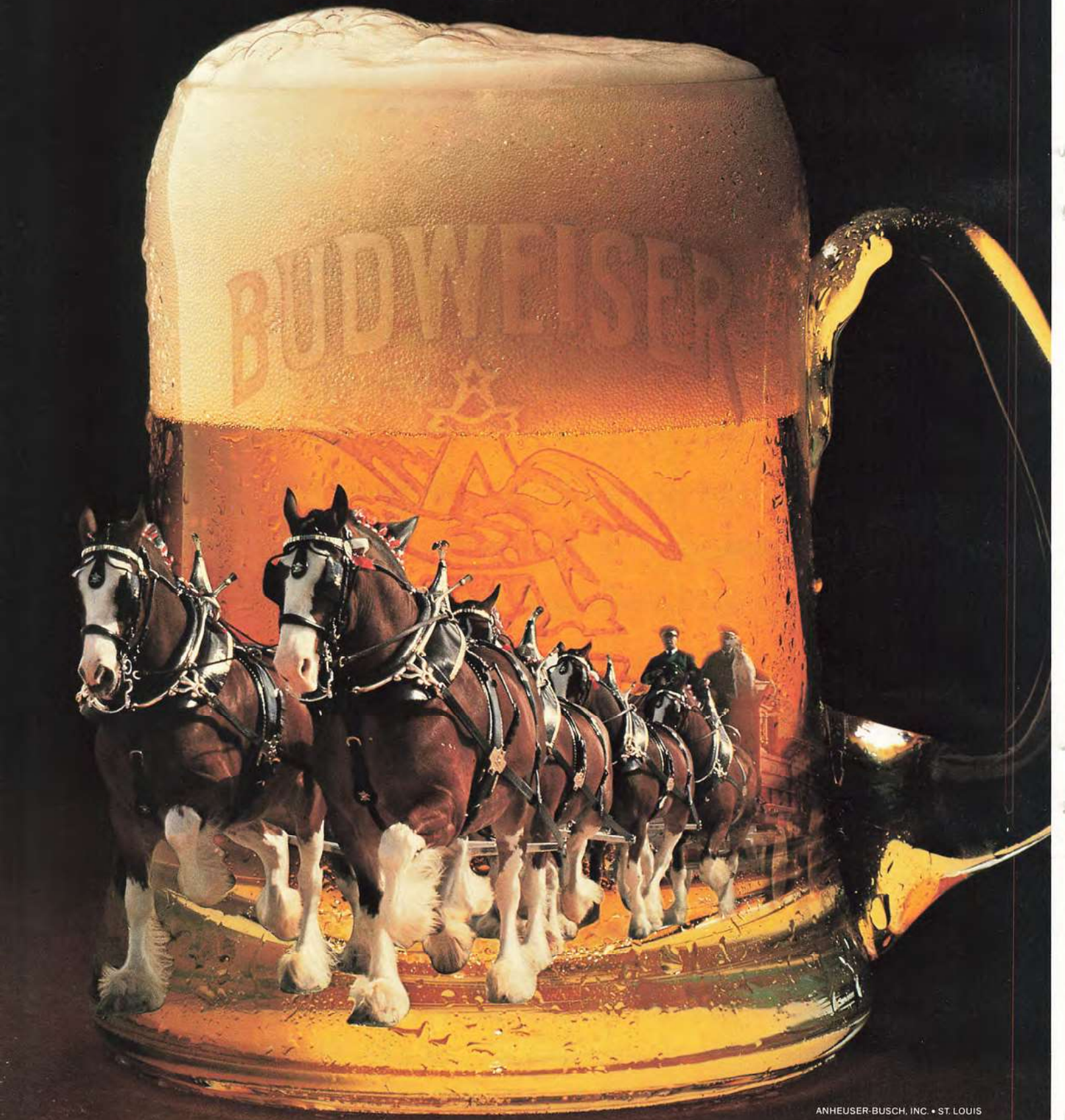

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What does Jordan think are the characteristics of a standout linebacker?

"First, I resent the animal label so many people attach to the position," Jordan says. "I never played the game dirty and always disliked penalties. I prefer the word aggressive to animalistic."

Then a linebacker is aggressive, hard-nosed and forever in search of the solid hit.

"A linebacker has got to want to make every play," Jordan says. "He has to be a little selfish when it comes to tackles. He has to believe that if he fails to make a tackle, the other team will score."

Then a linebacker is proud to the point he believes his team will fail if he does.

"My biggest asset as a player was my ability to recognize what an offense planned to do before the ball was snapped," Jordan says. "That ability is the result of a lot of study, hours watching film and listening to coaches. I always believed that if I worked hard enough preparing for a game, playing it would be a cinch."

Then a linebacker is dedicated, instinctive and hard-working to the point he is willing to take that needed extra step that separates mediocrity from fame.

At Alabama, linebackers are not born, they are made — by a machine that seems to consistently mold champions.

And it is forever a shame every Alabama linebacker cannot wear that fabled jersey number 54, or at least play like the man who made it famous.★

Redshirted freshman Robbie Jones (97) is a strong addition to the Alabama linebacker corps. Robbie has excellent speed and has moved comfortably in to the position after having practiced last year at defensive end. —Spectrum-Southeast Photo

Making the Most of It

CRIMSON GALLERY →

It's hard for competitive high school athletes to make the transition to collegiate competition, particularly when the transition includes some time spent on the sidelines watching more experienced players at one's position who are higher up on the depth chart.

So it's a key moment for a reserve player when circumstances call for him to enter the game. Making the most of that situation is foremost in his mind, and that's just what Alabama reserve quarterback Alan Gray did in this situation against Florida.

Although Alan was named winner of last spring's Dixie Howell Award as the outstanding player in the A-Day game, he's been limited this year, partly because of injuries.

A native of Tampa, it had to be a big thrill for him to have nine rushes for 32 yards and a 20-yard reception against Florida.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

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David Hannah:

Last Of A Famous Line

by Mike Bolton

No one keeps stats, but if they did David Hannah would have led the nation in percentage of big plays relative to playing time last season.

"I didn't get to play but 23 plays last season and four of them were goalline stands," David laughs. "Two of those plays were really big ones."

Those big ones are easy enough to figure out. The knee-injured Hannah was thrust into duty in last year's Sugar Bowl when regular Warren Lyles suffered a pulled hamstring. The two plays that have come to be affectionately called "Gut Check" featured Hannah as one of the leading characters.

It was just another chapter in the story of the Hannah Family at the University of Alabama.

It all started when Herb Hannah starred for the Crimson Tide 1948-50 and it will end this season when senior David walks off the field after his last game. That will mark the end of an 11-year string of Hannah brothers at the University of Alabama.

"There is no need to say football has been a very intricate part of our whole family's lives," David says. "My oldest brother, Ronnie, was a good high school player in high school and of course Dad played here and with the New York Giants. John, Charles and I all came here. You know Mother couldn't help but to get involved, either. It's been a big, big part of the Hannah family."

One can bet that when Mrs. Herb Hannah gets to Heaven she won't be surprised if everyone there is playing football. She'll just shake her head and say, "Here we go again."

The football life she chose when she married Alabama star Herb Hannah in 1947 is showing no sign of letting up.

"I don't mind," she says with a laugh. "It's been a pleasure all the way. There have been a few tough times, of course, but the good times easily outweigh the bad.

"I married Herb when he had two years left at Alabama and after that he went to New York Giants for a year. Then, the player wives couldn't meet their husbands until the regular season, so I stayed in Georgia during the preseason.

"When the regular season came around, I loaded the two children—John was six months I think—and we headed for New York. It was quite an experience. I'll never forget me rolling into Washington, D.C. at 5 p.m. in the getting off traffic. It was quite a trip."

Herb Hannah left professional football after a year to return to work for his father-in-law on the farm. That eventually evolved into his prosperous farm and veterinary supply business which is still in business today.

Meanwhile, the Hannahs were raising what was turning out to be some pretty hefty children. By the fifth grade, John had found his thighs were already bigger than any of his schoolmate's waists.

"Finding clothes was always the biggest problem," she says. "Even today, their clothes don't fit correctly unless they are tailor-made. Their fighting was a problem, too. They were too big for me to whip. All I could do was plead for them to stop."

"Dad always kept a pretty good rein on us," David laughs now. "But we were always getting into something. John was always the outspoken one; Charles was always the conniving one; and I was always the one getting caught. I wasn't a very good planner, I guess.

"We always got into fights like all brothers, but ours were different. Mother couldn't do anything with us. She'd beg us to stop and once she finally scared us by telling us she was going to call the police."

David was 12 years old when John got a scholarship to the University of Alabama. It made a big impression on someone his age.

"I didn't think there was anybody better than John," he remembers. "I thought he was really something else."

While John was turning into quite a player at Alabama, Charles and David were doing the same at Baylor Prep School in Chattanooga. Charles decided to come to Alabama, too and when it was David's time to choose, he had a major decision to make.

"I wanted to go somewhere else just as a change of pace," David recalls. "I was seriously thinking about Auburn because of their vet school. I finally decided to come to Alabama or some place that wasn't going to play Alabama for four years. I didn't want to go against Charles. I though that would bring too much turmoil for Mom and Dad.

"I was seriously thinking about somewhere else, but everybody assumed I was going here. Scouts would say 'Are you positive there might be a chance you might come here?' They thought I was wasting their time. They didn't want to fool with me because they thought I was coming here for sure."

David did come to Alabama as everyone knows and he has followed in the footsteps of his brothers and his father.

"I definitely made the right choice coming here," he said. "Charles told me I could go to Oklahoma or Southern Cal or someplace like that, but here I could be a national champion.

"At the time I didn't really know what that meant, but I do now. You can be good, or you can be the best. You can just eat, or you can eat steak.

"I just like being around the tradition of champions. You can't imagine what that means until you experience it."

Although football has meant a lot of glorious Saturdays for the Hannah family, there have been bad times, too.

"John suffered a heat stroke against Tennessee in his junior year (his temperature reached 106) and I guess that scared me more than anything," Mrs. Hannah says.

"He nearly died. That scared me, but I've worried a lot, too. David had two knee surgeries in five months. Charles had knee surgery too.

"I've always worried a little about David because he was so accident prone. I always worried a little about David, too because there was always so much pressure on him here because of his brothers."

Even though David is the last of the Hannah boys, she doesn't consider him the baby of the family.

"My mother always considered me the baby because I was the youngest, so I said I would never consider one of my children like that," she says. "David told me to just consider him 'the last of the wild bunch.' "

When David walks off the field after his final Alabama game it will mark the end of an era of Alabama tradition. "Coupe" Hannah is dreading the day.

"That will be a sad day," she says. "There were 10 years at Baylor prep they weren't without one of the boys and 11 years at Alabama they weren't without one.

"I knew every bump in every turn of the road between here and Chattanooga and I know every bump between here and Tuscaloosa. It will be a tremendous difference not having a son at Alabama.

"There's quite a difference between running down to Tuscaloosa and running down to Tampa or up to Massachusetts. I'm sure we'll still see some Alabama games, but not nearly as much. We'll try to see the boys in the pros more."

David's career at the University has been much more troubled than that of his brothers or father. David's knee first gave away in Alabama's win over Ohio State in the 1978 Sugar Bowl and it was operated on shortly thereafter. The same knee went out again the week before Alabama opened against Nebraska in '78. He didn't see action again until late that year.

"The knee will never be as good as it

A familiar sight to Alabama fans for the past 11 years has been at least one Hannah brother on the Crimson Tide team. That line of brothers comes to an end this season as David winds up his Bama career.

—Spectrum-Southeast Photo

once was, but it's okay," Hannah says. "I can't make the cuts I once could. Normally I could give everything and just let go.

"I'm not leading the team in tackles and I'm not going to be an All-America or anything, but I think I'm having a pretty good year in spite of everything.

"Losing a knee like that will do something to you. When you're laying there knowing you're about to get cut on and you're about to lose everything you always wanted it makes you think. It got me to thinking that maybe football wasn't the most important thing in the world.

"I grew up worshiping Lee Roy Jordan and John and that's all I wanted to be. But that got me to thinking. I had been a Christian since I was 17, but I was living it the way I wanted to. The injury let me know I needed a sturdier foundation than football."

Hannah's Christianity helps him cope with his day-to-day problems now and will help him choose a future.

"I have three options open to me after this season," he says. "I can go into teaching, business with my father or, if they want me, pro football. I have to admit the thought of pro football is the most stimulating.

"People like to compare me to my brothers, so I'm going to. I've always felt I could keep up with them and I think I could do the same in pro football. We've both had the same advantages and the same disadvantages. I think I could make it.

"If I don't make it, then at least I could say I tried."

Hannah thinks most college football players are misunderstood as is coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. He feels he has learned a lot from both.

"People say they have seen coach Bryant on TV during games and on the news and they can't see how he could possibly motivate anyone," Hannah says. "That's like trying to figure out what a girl is like on the telephone. You don't really know what she is like until you meet her. Coach Bryant is the same way. Nobody knows him until they play for him.

"I think football players are really misunderstood, too. They aren't the happy guys you see in the interviews. They are basically very lonely people.

"I think searching for accomplishments makes them that way. Football is really a pretty viscious circle. A good junior high player goes to high school and everybody else is pretty good. An All-State high school player goes to college and everybody is All-State. An All-America college player goes to the pros and everybody else is All-America. It's scary and it makes for lonely people."

How tough is it to stick to your religion when you're around over 100 males between 17 and 22?

"This may surprise some people, but that makes it easier," he says. "Because here you have all those guys making you stick to it. They watch me and they kid about backsliding. I have to watch my step. Some might like to see me slip up."

When David steps down from the University of Alabama in January it will end the "Hannah Boys" reign that began in 1968. In that period Alabama teams have posted six 11-1 seasons, a 105-24-1 overall record, two national championships and four bowl wins. The Hannahs were a major part of it.

David, like his brothers, will be dearly missed. The lack of a Hannah will take away from the color of Alabama football.★

David Hannah has had to play this year on a less than 100 percent knee, but the senior Crimson Tide tackle nevertheless plays his position well, fighting off this blocker and moving to the ball carrier.

—Spectrum—Southeast Photo

FUTURE TIDE SCHEDULES

THE 1980 SEASON
Sept. 13—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 20—Mississippi, away
Sept. 27—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 4—Kentucky, home
Oct. 11—Rutgers, away
Oct. 18—Tennessee, away
Oct. 25—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 1—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 8—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 15—Notre Dame, home
Nov. 29—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1981 SEASON
Sept. 12—Georgia Tech, home
Sept. 19—Kentucky, away
Sept. 26—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 3—Mississippi, home
Oct. 10—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 17—Tennessee, home
Oct. 24—Rutgers, home
Oct. 31—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 7—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 14—Penn State, away
Nov. 28—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1982 SEASON
Sept. 11—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 18—Mississippi, away
Sept. 25—Vanderbilt, home
Oct. 2—Southern Miss, home
Oct. 9—Penn State, home
Oct. 16—Tennessee, away
Oct. 23—Cincinnati, home
Oct. 30—Mississippi State, away
Nov. 6—Louisiana State, home
Nov. 20—Rutgers, away
Nov. 27—Auburn, Birmingham

THE 1983 SEASON
Sept. 10—Georgia Tech, away
Sept. 17—Mississippi, home
Sept. 24—Vanderbilt, away
Oct. 1—Memphis State, home
Oct. 8—Penn State, away
Oct. 15—Tennessee, home
Oct. 22—Boston College, home
Oct. 29—Mississippi State, home
Nov. 5—Louisiana State, away
Nov. 12—Southern Miss, home
Nov. 26—Auburn, Birmingham

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

1933 **ALABAMA** (5-0-1)
1934 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
Tulane (8-0-0)
1935 L. S. U. (5-0-0)
1936 L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1937 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1938 Tennessee (7-0-0)
1939 Tennessee (6-0-0)
Georgia Tech (6-0-0)
Tulane (5-0-0)
1940 Tennessee (5-0-0)
1941 Miss. State (4-0-1)
1942 Georgia (6-1-0)
1943 Georgia Tech (3-0-0)
1944 Georgia Tech (4-0-0)
1945 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1946 Georgia (5-0-0)
Tennessee (5-0-0)
1947 Mississippi (6-1-0)
1948 Georgia (6-0-0)
1949 Tulane (5-1-0)
1950 Kentucky (5-1-0)
1951 Georgia Tech (7-0-0)
Tennessee (5-0-0)
1952 Georgia Tech (6-0-0)
1953 **ALABAMA** (4-0-3)
1954 Mississippi (5-0-0)
1955 Mississippi (5-1-0)
1956 Tennessee (6-0-0)
1957 Auburn (7-0-0)
1958 L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1959 Georgia (7-0-0)
1960 Mississippi (5-0-1)
1961 **ALABAMA** (7-0-1)
L. S. U. (6-0-0)
1962 Mississippi (6-0-0)
1963 Mississippi (5-0-1)
1964 **ALABAMA** (8-0-0)
1965 **ALABAMA** (6-1-1)
1966 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
Georgia (6-0-0)
1967 Tennessee (6-0-0)
1968 Georgia (5-0-1)
1969 Tennessee (5-1-0)
1970 L. S. U. (5-0-0)
1971 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
1972 **ALABAMA** (7-1-0)
1973 **ALABAMA** (8-0-0)
1974 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1975 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)
1976 Georgia (5-1-0)
1977 **ALABAMA** (7-0-0)
1978 **ALABAMA** (6-0-0)

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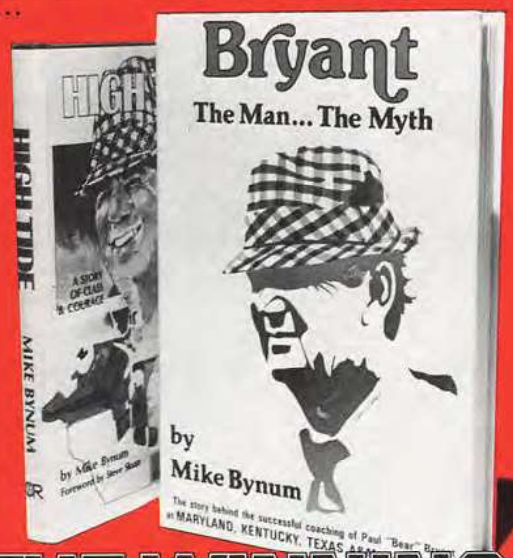

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MIAMI HURRICANES

by Kirk McNair

The most-traveled football team in history makes a short hop this weekend. The Miami road schedule this season is setting a record for distance as the Hurricanes will have traveled a total of 28,000 miles to play football games — a distance equal to an around-the-world trip. The Hurricanes have already played in San Diego, California; Syracuse, New York; State College, Pennsylvania; and twice in Tallahassee, Florida. Trips remain at Tuscaloosa Saturday and against Notre Dame in Tokyo, Japan, November 25.

But it's not the travel itinerary of the Hurricanes that concerns Alabama coach Paul Bryant and his staff and players. It's the quality of football players that Miami coach Howard Schnellenberger has at his disposal.

The Hurricanes returned 33 lettermen, including 12 starters from last year's team, including the top four quarterbacks, top eight linebackers and four of five starters in the offensive line.

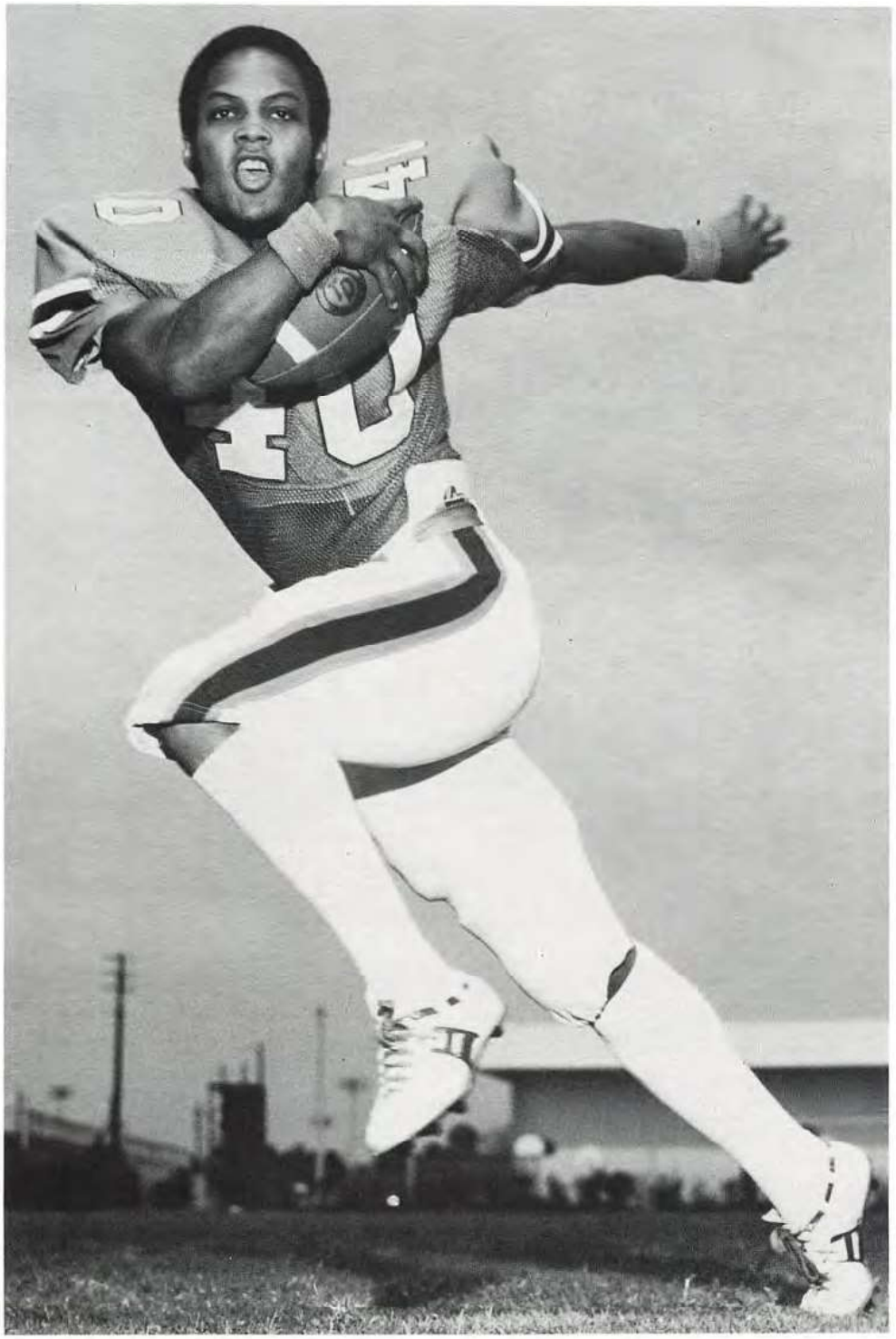
Miami has also been battle-hardened by its traditionally tough schedule.

Here's looking at the personnel:

OFFENSE

Coach Schnellenberger describes his offense as a "pro veer" set. The Hurricanes have quality at the skill positions — quarterback, running backs and split receivers — and they take advantage of it.

Quarterback: Sophomore Mike Rodrigue is a starter for the second year and is already in the Miami record books. As a freshman he hit a near-record nine straight passes. This year he has already gone well over the 100-completion mark and over the 1,000-yard mark in passing, the first Miami quarterback to do so in almost a decade. When he's in the game, surprisingly, the Hurricanes are as likely to run the football as pass it, and the passes are more play-action oriented.



Miami knew that it had to have someone come through in the running back corps this year and the man who has done it is soph Chris Hobbs.

When he's not in, Mike Kelly will be. Kelly, a redshirted freshman, was the most hotly-recruited quarterback since Namath to come out of Pennsylvania. He's a rifle-armed passer and the Hurricanes will be in a drop back passing game when he's quarterbacking.

Split Receiver: Split end Pat Walker, a junior, was Miami's leading pass receiver as a freshman, then was hobbled by injuries last year. He's back in fine form this season, leading the nation in yards per reception at over 25 per clip. He's a 4.6 sprinter. With another full year to play he already ranks among Miami's all-time leading career receivers. The flanker is 6-2, 193-pound speedster (4.5 in the 40) Jim Joiner, who has been the big play man for the Hurricanes the past couple of seasons, although he has not had the long, game-breaking catch this year that marked previous campaigns. Joiner is a real threat on the end-around run. His backup man, soph Larry Brodsky, is often used and actually has more receptions than Joiner this year. Brodsky was the most improved player in Miami spring drills this year.

Running Back: Miami felt that someone had to come through in a big way for the Hurricanes at running back this year and it was no surprise when the man who did that was little (5-9, 180) soph Chris Hobbs. Hobbs, who plays fullback, was Miami's leading rusher as a freshman in 1977, then got a redshirt season last year when he had knee surgery after the first game. He has been timed at 4.45 in the 40 and 9.6 in the 100. He started against Alabama two years ago. Behind him is another soph, Gary Breckner, the third-leading rusher for Miami this year. Also a sophomore, 5-10, 180-pound Lorenzo Roan starts at halfback. His 4.5 speed in the 40 is reason enough for his nickname, "Smokey." Roan transferred from junior college, where last year he rushed for over 1,000 yards. He is very strong. A redshirted freshman, 6-3, 205-pound Mark Rush, backs up Roan. Another speedster (4.6), Rush had an 87-yard kickoff return in Miami's spring game.

Tight End: The Hurricanes have outstanding freshmen in the one-two spots here. Andy Baratta, 6-3, 220, is the starter and Jay Brophy, 6-4, 225, is the backup man. Both came to Miami with incredible high school credentials and have done nothing to blemish them. Although used infrequently as pass receivers, the tight ends have averaged over 10 yards per reception this year.

Offensive Line: Miami suffered a crucial loss here a couple of weeks ago when two-year starting center John Fenton under went knee surgery. Into that spot has stepped a 6-3, 215-pound freshman from Miami, Donald Bailey, who came out of the same prep program as Fenton. A redshirted freshman, 6-2, 220-pound Chris Duffy, who is one of the strongest men on the team, is the backup center. The Miami guards are junior college transfer Mike Kehoe (6-0, 238) and junior Jim Pokorney (6-3, 235), who started at offensive tackle for the Hurricanes last year. Miami's left tackle, Steve Grady, is one of the biggest men the Tide will face this year. The soph is 6-7, 265 and runs a 5.0 40. He's already 22, having joined the Navy, attended prep school and played at Rhode Island before transferring to Miami and sitting out last year. The other tackle is 6-5, 250-pound soph John Canei, who has beaten out previous starter David Stewart (6-6, 250) for the job.

Miami head coach Howard Schnellenberger will almost certainly have some pleasant memories this Saturday in Tuscaloosa, but what would really make it a pleasant trip is if the Hurricanes can knock off the second of last year's participants in the national championship game. Miami beat Penn State in its last outing.

DEFENSE

As Alabama (and almost everyone else), Miami has a 5-2 defense that allows the ends to drop off as outside linebackers. Unlike everyone else, Miami has a tremendous noseguard, junior Jim Burt, who has been compared to former Miami All-America performers Rubin Carter and Don Latimer. Historically, teams that play the best defense against the wishbone offense have an outstanding noseguard.

Ends: Tim Flanagan (6-3, 220 and 4.7 in the 40) played regularly the last half of 1978 as a freshman after having been injured early in the year. He's beaten out returning starter John Daniels (6-2, 220-pound junior). Returning starter Barry Gonzalez (6-3, 230) mans the other end spot. As a junior last year he made 87 tackles and intercepted three passes. Freshman Greg Zappala (6-2, 220) in his backup man.

Tackles: Soph Lester Williams (6-3, 250) was one of the most highly-recruited players in Miami his senior year in high school, including a top prospect of Alabama. He was a regular last year as a freshman, although he played behind All-America Don Smith. He's strong and fast, running a 4.7 40. At the other tackle is 6-3, 245-pound Bob Nelson, who started as a defensive end last year and was second

on the team in quarterback sacks. Backup men are junior Charles Cook (6-3, 230) and giant freshman Leon Evans (6-7, 270).

Noseguard: Jim Burt (6-1, 246-pound junior) is Miami's top All-America candidate this year as the Hurricanes' leading tackler. He was a parttime starter last year until an injury felled his co-starter, then came to life when the job fell to him fulltime. His performance this year has been the biggest — and most pleasant — surprise for Miami. He is backed by 6-3, 235-pound redshirt freshman Tony Chickillo, whose father Nick was an outstanding member of the Hurricanes in the 1950s. He missed last year after a truck on a construction job backed into him causing multiple injuries that required traction and crutches. No report on damage to the truck.

Linebackers: Junior Mozell Axson (6-0, 226) was the leading tackler for the Hurricanes last year and is a quality linebacker. He's a savage hitter against the run, also outstanding on pass defense. Soph Scott Nicolas (6-4, 224) starts on the strong side for the second year. He was named the outstanding performer in spring practice this year and great things are expected of him. Herb Jackson (6-3, 215-pound senior) was the starter early last year until Nicolas took his job and he's still one backup linebacker. The other is 6-3, 212-pound freshman Danny Brown.

Secondary: Soph David Jefferson (6-2, 210) showed last year that he had a fine future ahead of him and he's strengthened that prediction this year. He has played both cornerback and strong safety for the Hurricanes this year but is now starting at the strong safety spot. Behind him is former quarterback Mark Smith, who started at strong safety while Jefferson was at cornerback. Soph Fred Marion (6-3, 190) starts at free safety. He is the brother of New York Giants linebacker Frank Marion. His backup man is freshman Ronnie Lippett, a 4.6 40 man. The cornerbacks are returning starters junior John Swain (6-2, 190) and senior Gene Coleman (5-10, 178). Both are big play men with speed to burn. Backup men are Jerry Pope (a 4.4 man in the 40) and freshman James Boone (a converted quarterback).

KICKING

Miami has an outstanding kicking game. The Hurricanes' placekicker on extra points and field goals, Dan Miller, has not missed an extra point over the past two years and hits about 90 per cent of his field goal tries. He has twice kicked field goals of over 50 yards and last year his three-pointer with 24 seconds to play beat Auburn. ★

YOU'RE THE COACH

Miami comes calling with a team that will pass about two plays out of five and which has been much more successful with the passing game than the running game. The Hurricanes average about 4.4 yards per play, but only 2.4 per rush. This year's Miami team has not been strong defensively, but has outscored its opponents in going 4-4.

1979 Cumulative Statistics

	BAMA	UM
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	626	305
Yards gained	3423	1028
Yards lost	202	292
Net yards gained	3221	736
Avg. gain per rush	5.1	2.4
Touchdowns	34	10
Passes attempted	88	217
Passes completed	41	106
Passes intercepted	8	13
Percentage	.465	.488
Total yards	656	1560
Touchdowns	4	6
Passes caught	41	106
Total yards	656	1560
Avg. gain per catch	16.0	14.7
Touchdowns	4	6
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	324	425
Yards gained	1172	1789
Yards lost	273	234
Net yards gained	909	1555
Touchdowns	2	13
Passes attempted	172	179
Passes completed	67	84
Passes intercepted	20	13
Percentage	.359	.460
Total yards	692	1080
Touchdowns	3	2
PUNTING		
Number	35	53
Yards	1322	1877
Avg.	37.7	35.4
Longest	70	49
FUMBLES/LOST	33/13	17/6
PENALTIES/ YARDS	35/288	45/449

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Shealy	114	664	5.8	9	64
(BAMA) Whitman	99	476	4.8	3	22
(BAMA) Jacobs	71	438	6.2	3	73
(BAMA) Ogilvie	72	423	5.8	8	26
(UM) Hobbs	76	290	3.8	2	31
(UM) Roan	87	227	2.6	3	12
(UM) Breckner	26	109	4.1	0	20

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	60	31	5	466	.516	2
(BAMA) Jacobs	22	9	2	177	.409	2
(UM) Rodgigue	150	74		1034	.493	2
(UM) Kelly	66	31		482	.469	4

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	13	231	17.7	1
(BAMA) Travis	6	94	15.6	1
(BAMA) Clark	5	79	15.8	0
(BAMA) Marks	4	118	29.5	1
(UM) Walker	22	573	26.0	3
(UM) Joiner	20	239	12.0	2
(UM) Brodsky	19	311	16.4	1
(UM) Roan	16	124	7.8	0

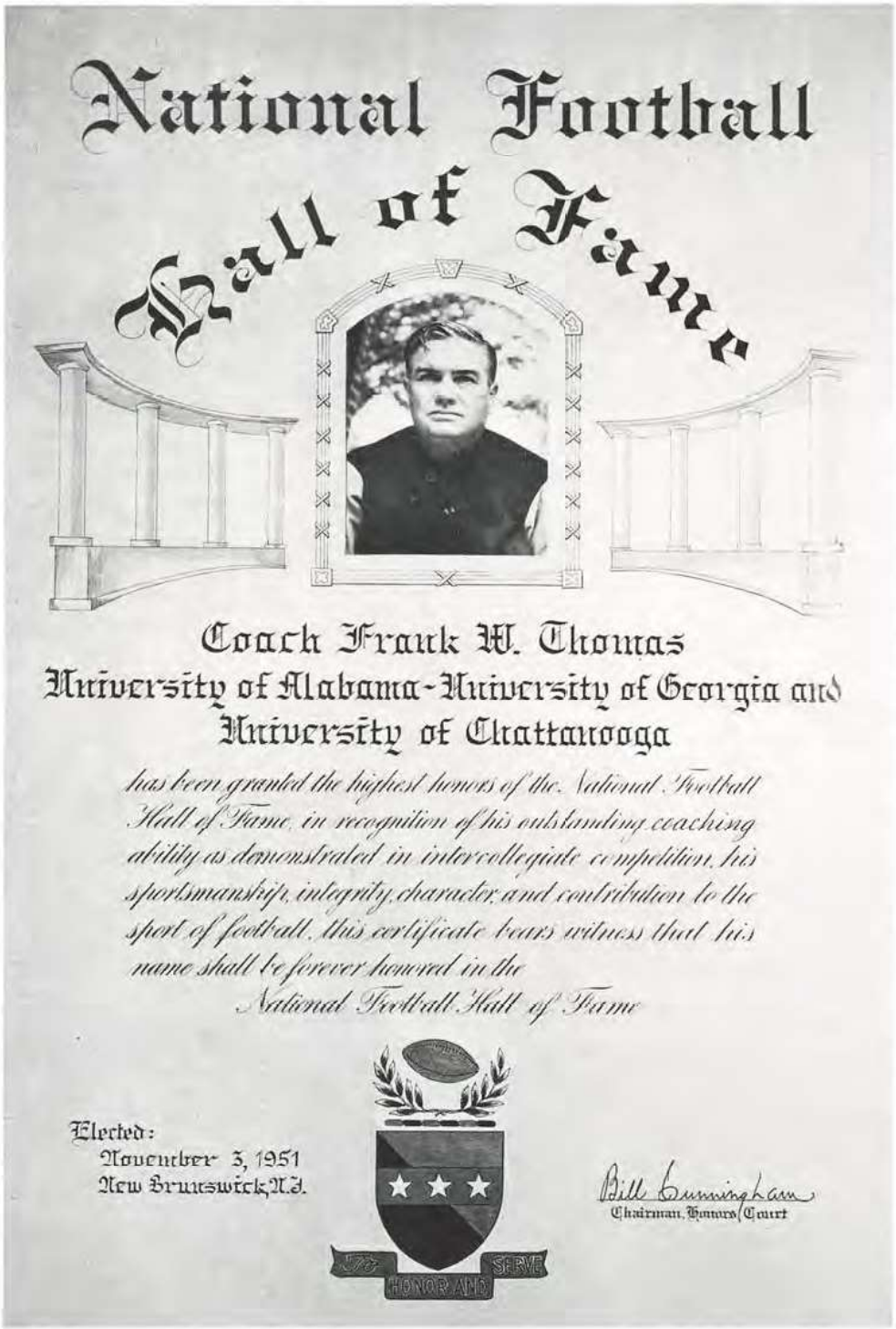
INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Boyd	48	20	68
(BAMA) Scott	38	7	45
(BAMA) Hamilton	20	22	42
(BAMA) Junior	32	9	41

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) R. Jones	3	18	6.0	0
(BAMA) Tucker	3	17	5.7	0
(BAMA) McNeal	3	12	4.0	0
(BAMA) Wilcox	3	9	3.0	0
(BAMA) 7 others	8	84	10.5	1
(UM) Coleman	5	55	11.0	0
(UM) Nicolas	2	18	9.0	0
(UM) Marion	2	2	1.0	0

'Coach Tommy' Replaced First Coaching Legend

by Mike Bolton


National Football Hall of Fame

Coach Frank W. Thomas
University of Alabama - University of Georgia and University of Chattanooga

has been granted the highest honors of the National Football Hall of Fame, in recognition of his outstanding coaching ability as demonstrated in intercollegiate competition, his sportsmanship, integrity, character and contribution to the sport of football. This certificate bears witness that his name shall be forever honored in the National Football Hall of Fame

Elected:
November 3, 1951
New Brunswick, N.J.

Bill Cunningham
Chairman, Honors Court

HONOR AND SERVE

How many times has it been said that there will be pity for the poor soul who succeeds Paul "Bear" Bryant?

The same thing was being said when it was announced that head football coach Wallace Wade was leaving the University of Alabama in 1931.

Wade won 61, lost 13 and tied three in eight years at Alabama and had become a favorite of the players, the fans and the students. He carried his teams to three Rose Bowls and produced numerous All-Americas. It all boiled down to Wade being a winner in the same manner as Bryant is now.

Wade announced he was leaving Alabama to take the head coaching position at Duke and Dr. Mike Denny honored his request asking only that he help find a suitable replacement. Wade's pick surprised everyone.

"There is a young backfield coach at the University of Georgia that could become one of the greatest coaches in the country," Wade told Denny. "He played football at Notre Dame under Rockne. Rock called him one of the smartest players he ever coached. He is Frank Thomas and I don't believe you could have a better man."

Thomas was told of the plug by Wade and he was asked to come to Birmingham to meet Denny and he did so with no questions asked. He could tell what was in store.

Thomas made the trip to California with the 1930 squad and watched Wade's last game as he destroyed Washington State 24-0. It had marked another undefeated season for Wade and the fans had loved the man that produced that squad which outscored the opponents 271-13. Thomas knew he might be about to be in over his head.

His great accomplishments as head coach of the Crimson Tide earned Frank Thomas an induction into the national Football Hall of Fame.

—University of Alabama Photo

Frank Thomas, the second in Alabama's legendary line of head football coaches that now numbers three, was the first to observe Crimson Tide football practice from a "tower." His elevated platform on wheels, however, was about two and a half stories below the one that coach Bryant uses today.

Fred Russell of the Nashville Banner remembered vividly the night it was announced Thomas would take over.

"It was one of those winter Saturday nights in the sports department," Russell recalled. "No good stories were coming up. It was all basketball. We needed another first-page streamer.

"The boy from the copy desk came in with several sheets of yellow and white dispatches — some UPI, some AP. The desk man looked them over. 'Hey, they got a man to replace Wade,' he yelled.

" 'Who?'

" 'Frank Thomas from Georgia, it says.'

" 'Who's Thomas?' three or four asked.

" 'You know, he used to coach at Chattanooga. Notre Dame man, I think.'

"The sympathetic agreement was that Frank Thomas was to be pitied, that he had stepped into some very large shoes and that it was likely to be very tough in Tuscaloosa."

Thomas remembered the meeting that got him the job as head coach of the University of Alabama.

"Mr. Thomas," Denny said. "Now that you have accepted our proposition, I'll give you the benefit of my views, based on my years of observation. It is my conviction that material is 90 percent, coaching ability just 10 percent. I desire further to say that you will be provided the 90 percent and that you will be held to strict accounting for delivering the remaining 10 percent."

"Those were the coldest words I have ever heard," Thomas told someone. "Do you think the proportions were correct?"

Who was this Frank Thomas that had stepped into such a messy situation?

He was born to James and Elizabeth Thomas, who had left Wales in 1882 to come to America and he was the youngest of six children. He had been a star halfback at Washington High School in East Chicago.

His father was an unemployed iron worker after Thomas' junior year, so Thomas left high school for Kalamazoo College where he could play football and work to support himself. He stayed there two seasons before transferring to Notre Dame where he became a quarterback under the legendary Knute Rockne.

Notre Dame was understandably not Kalamazoo. He was a third-string quarterback there and his only claim to fame was being a roommate of George Gipp, who, like Rockne, taught him a lot about football.

It wasn't until midseason of his junior year that Thomas became the first-team quarterback. It was a bad season. Gipp, his friend and roommate, died with sickness.

Thomas was a star as a senior, and Rockne saw good things for the lad. "It's amazing the amount of sense he has," Rockne said. "He can't miss becoming a coach."

Thomas went to Chattanooga as head coach in 1924 and posted a 30-6-1 record over four years which included three straight Dixie Conference championships.

Thomas went to Georgia as a backfield coach after his stint at Chattanooga and it was there he waited until being called to Alabama.

That call came and Thomas jumped at it not asking sympathy or pity from anyone.

That first season saw Thomas record easy wins over Howard (42-6), Mississippi

(55-6), Mississippi State (53-0) before being crushed by Tennessee 25-0. The rumbling from the fans and alumni began after that game, but quieted somewhat as Thomas won the rest of them.

Fans began wondering if this Thomas might have plans of continuing on Alabama's fine winning tradition that was set in motion by Wade. Few had any idea he was about to expand on it.

Thomas' 1932 squad lost to Tennessee and Georgia Tech while going 8-2 and his 1933 squad won the first SEC championship with a 7-1-1 record. Things were about to get really rolling however.

Thomas knew at the start of the 1934 season he had some strength in quarterback Dixie Howell and ends Don Hutson and Paul Bryant. Little did he foresee the damage they would inflict with the forward pass, however.

Howell passed and Hutson and Bryant caught as Alabama rolled over nine straight opponents. Alabama got an invitation to the Rose Bowl.

There, Thomas' crew demolished Stanford 29-13. Thomas would always say it was the biggest thrill of his life.

Thomas posted a 6-2-1 record in 1935 and came back with an 8-0-1 mark in 1936. His team tied hated rival Tennessee that year.

Thomas carried his squad back to the Rose Bow in 1937 bragging of a 9-0 record, but fell to California 13-0. Alabama had better than average records under Thomas until 1941, but the Tide had been "bowlless" and fans were again yearning for a Christmas holiday trip. They were about to get their wish.

Thomas' 1941 squad went 9-2 in regular season play and then downed Texas A&M 29-21 in the Cotton Bowl. The 1942 squad went 8-3 and downed Boston College 37-21 in the Orange Bowl.

Due to World War II Alabama didn't field a 1943 team, but the Tide came back strong in 1944 with a 5-2-2 record that included a 29-26 loss to Duke in the Sugar Bowl. The 1945 squad made history when it posted a 10-0 record and downed Southern California 34-14 in the Rose Bowl. Alabama, under Thomas, had become the first college football team in history to travel to four consecutive bowls.

The incredible feat would get Thomas inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame.

While Alabama was looking well going into the 1946 season, Thomas was not. Illness had begun to hamper the beloved coach. His squad posted a 7-4 record and when it was over, Alabama fans got the news they had been dreading.

The letter to the "Committee on Physical education and Athletics and the President of the University," proved the worst:

"Gentlemen:

"My physical condition makes it necessary for me to resign the position as the head football coach of the University of Alabama..."

The University accepted his resignation with a great deal of regret.

Sixteen years of Alabama football under Thomas had produced a 141-32-8 record and the University of Alabama Athletic Department found its budget in its best shape ever. Of course six bowl trips had helped that a lot.

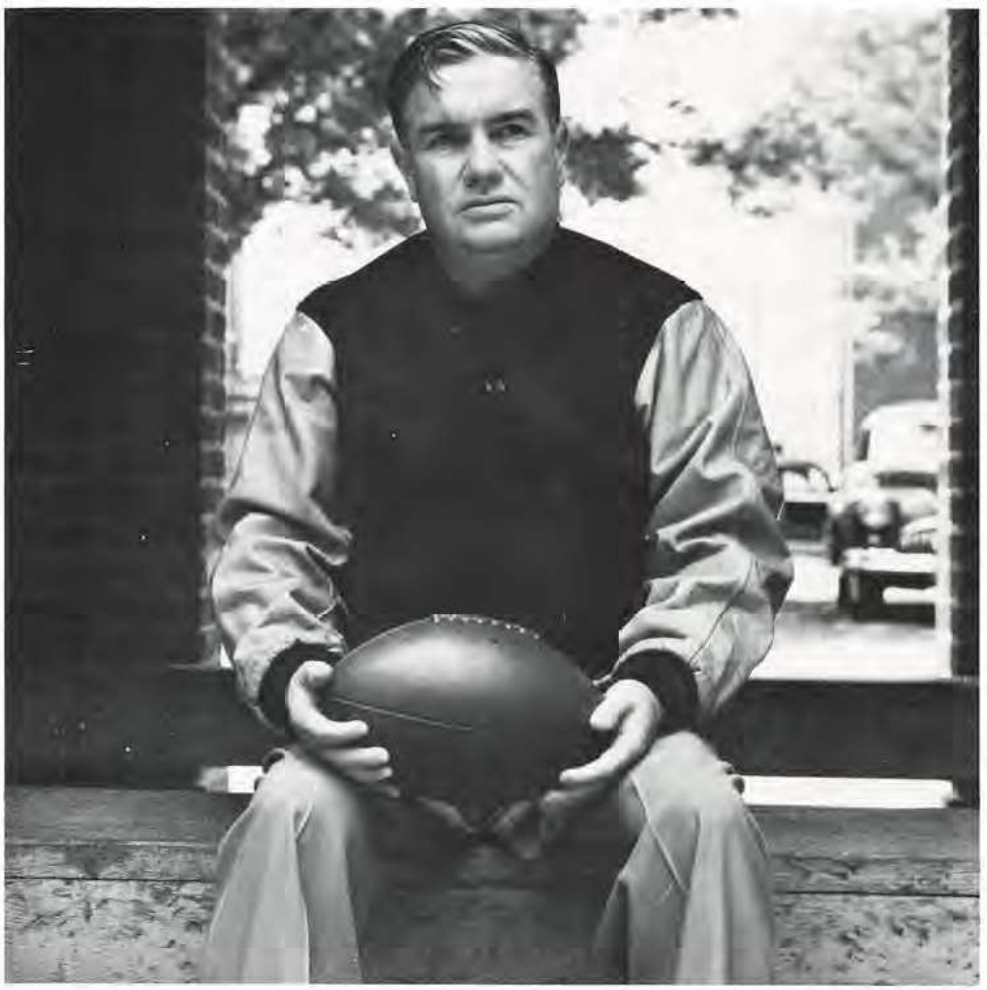
Alabama accepted Harold "Red" Drew as its new coach for 1948, but the Alabama fans' heart still lay with Thomas. Grantland Rice captured that feeling in one of his columns:

The winds from Tuscaloosa now face a mournful ride,
For Tommy isn't back to lead the Crimson Tide.
Though Red Drew is a winning coach who'll keep the winning spell,
There's still a sigh of sorrow deep in Alabama's dell.
The winds from Tuscaloosa have carried old refrains
of victory through Southern suns and Autumn's driving rains.
From bowl to bowl the Crimson Tide has fought its way to fame,
But Tommy's on the sidelines now, and nothing seems the same.

Thomas remained as Alabama's athletics director after his resignation as head coach, but illness plagued him for the remainder of his tenure.

Hospitalization caused Thomas to turn over his AD duties to Jeff Coleman in 1950, but he later returned for more service. Thomas died on May 11, 1954.

Through a special resolution of the state legislature, the athletic area at Alabama was named Frank Thomas Field after his death and Alabama's athletic complex still bears that name. ★



Frank Thomas was pitied when he replaced the great Wallace Wade as head football coach at Alabama, but Coach Tommy turned in a 141-32-8 record for Bama and earned a niche in the National Football Hall of Fame.

—University of Alabama Photo

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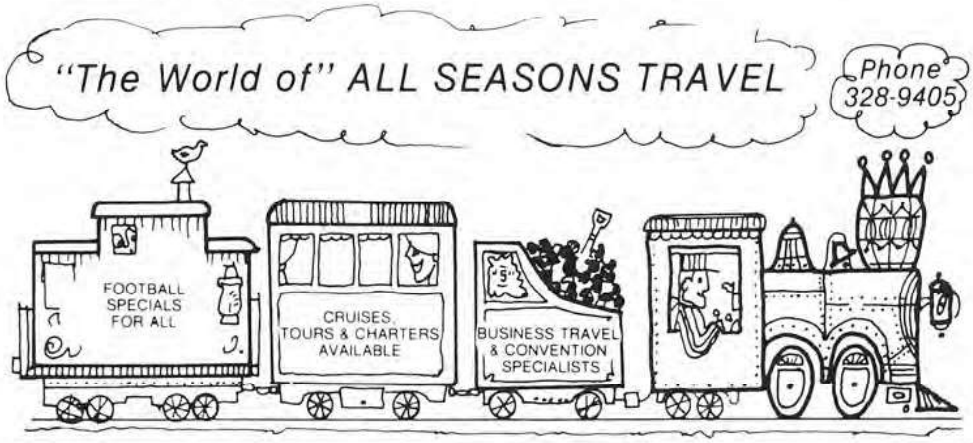
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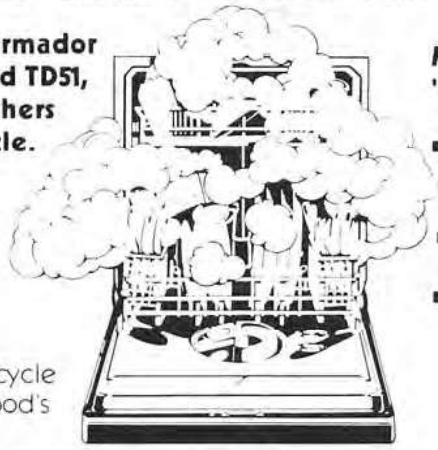

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AROUND THE LEAGUE

DATE	ALABAMA	AUBURN	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	30 at Georgia Tech 6				
Sept. 15		26 KANSAS STATE 18	10 at Houston 14	21 WAKE FOREST 22	14 MIAMI (OH.) 15
Sept. 22	45 BAYLOR (B)* 0	31 S. MISS 9	7 GEORGIA TECH 7	7 at Clemson 12	10 at Indiana 18
Sept. 29	66 at Vanderbilt 3	17 at Tennessee 35	10 at Miss. State 24	20 S. CAROLINA 27	14 MARYLAND 7
Oct. 6	38 WICHITA STATE (T) 0	44 N.C. STATE 31	3 at LSU 20	24 at Ole Miss 21	6 at W. Virginia 10
Oct. 13	40 at Florida 0	52 VANDERBILT 35	0 ALABAMA 40	21 LSU 14	14 OLE MISS 3
Oct. 20	27 TENNESSEE (B) 17	38 at Georgia Tech 14		31 at Vanderbilt 10	19 at LSU 23
Oct. 27	31 VIRGINIA TECH (T) 7	38 at Wake Forest 42	10 TULSA 20	20 KENTUCKY 6	6 at Georgia 20
Nov. 3	24 MISSISSIPPI ST. (T) 7	19 FLORIDA 13	13 at Auburn 19	0 VIRGINIA 31	20 BOWLING GR 14
Nov. 10	3 at LSU 0	14 MISSISSIPPI ST 3	10 GEORGIA (J)** 33	33 at Florida (J)** 10	29 at Vanderbilt 10
Nov. 17	MIAMI (T)	at Georgia	KENTUCKY	AUBURN	at Florida
Nov. 24			FLA. STATE		TENNESSEE
Dec. 1	AUBURN (B)	ALABAMA (B)	at Miami	at Georgia Tech	

DATE	LSU	OLE MISS	MISS. STATE	TENNESSEE	VANDERBILT
Sept. 8			13 MEMPHIS ST. (J)# 14		
Sept. 15	44 at Colorado 0	38 at Memphis St. 34		28 at Boston College 16	13 at Indiana 44
Sept. 22	47 RICE 3	7 MISSOURI (J)¢ 33	14 at Maryland 35	51 UTAH 18	14 CITADEL 27
Sept. 29	12 SOUTHERN CAL 17	8 S. MISS. (J) 38	24 FLORIDA (J) 10	35 AUBURN 17	3 ALABAMA 66
Oct. 6	20 FLORIDA 3	21 GEORGIA (O) 24	28 TENNESSEE (M) 9	9 at Miss. St. (M) 9	14 at Tulane 42
Oct. 13	14 at Georgia 21	3 at Kentucky 14	6 at Florida St. 17	31 GEORGIA TECH 0	35 at Auburn 52
Oct. 20	23 KENTUCKY 19	14 at S. Carolina 21	48 MARSHALL (S) 0	17 at Alabama (B) 27	10 GEORGIA 31
Oct. 27	19 FLORIDA STATE 24	63 VANDERBILT (O) 28	7 S. MISS. (S) 21		28 at Ole Miss (O) 63
Nov. 3	28 at Ole Miss 24	24 LSU (J) 28	7 at Alabama (T) 24	7 RUTGERS 13	13 MEMPHIS ST. 3
Nov. 10	0 ALABAMA 3	15 at Tulane 49	3 at Auburn 14	40 NOTRE DAME 18	10 KENTUCKY 29
Nov. 17	MISSISSIPPI ST.	TENNESSEE (J)	at LSU	at Ole Miss (J)	at Air Force
Nov. 24	at Tulane	at Miss. St. (J)	OLE MISS (J)	at Kentucky	
Dec. 1				VANDERBILT	at Tennessee

1979 STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
Alabama	5-0-0	9-0-0
Georgia	5-0-0	5-4-0
Auburn	3-1-0	7-2-0
LSU	3-2-0	5-4-0
Mississippi State	2-2-0	3-6-0
Kentucky	2-2-0	3-6-0
Tennessee	1-2-0	5-3-0
Ole Miss	1-3-0	2-7-0
Florida	0-5-0	0-7-1
Vanderbilt	0-5-0	1-8-0

*Alabama home games are played at Birmingham or Tuscaloosa

**At Jacksonville

¢Ole Miss home games are played at Jackson or Oxford

#Mississippi State home games are played at Jackson, Starkville or Memphis

THE RACE

Auburn begins its two-game bowl season this week. The Tigers aren't eligible for bowl competition or the SEC championship, but can have a big say in this year's race against Georgia this week and Alabama December 1. Alabama and Georgia are now the only two teams that can win the SEC.

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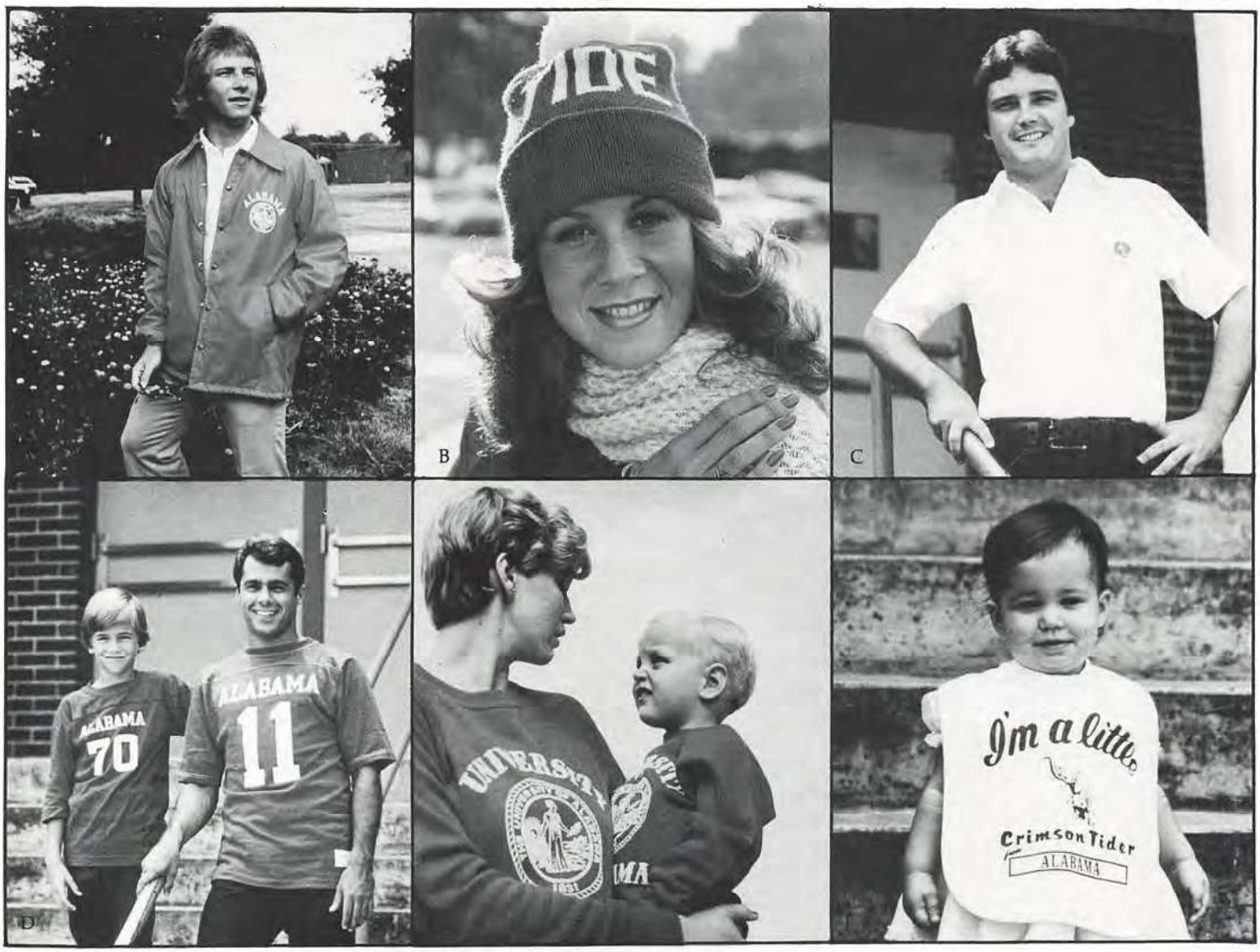

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_____E.	Sweatshirt: Youth XS,S,M,L $6.50 Adult S,M,L,XL $7.95
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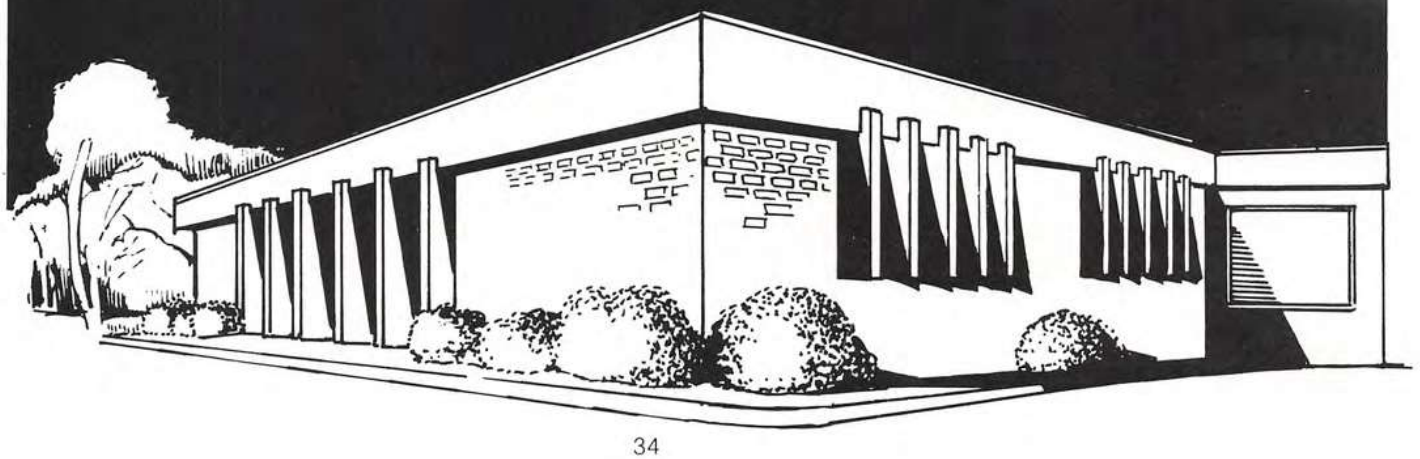

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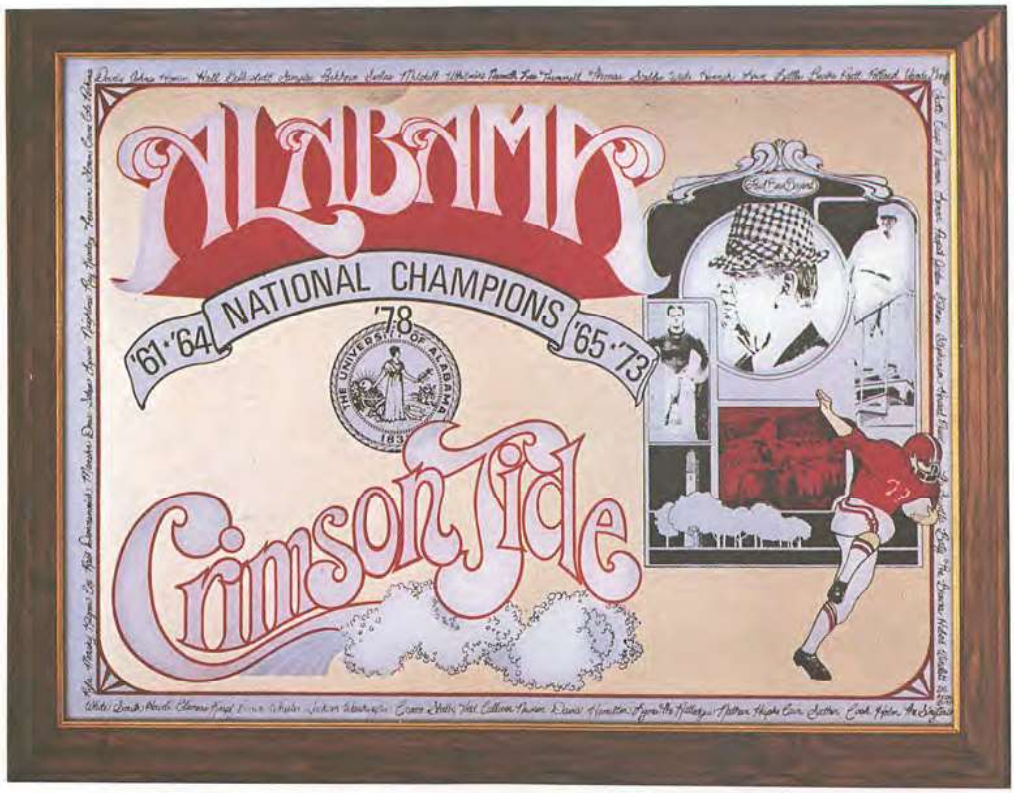
ALABAMA FOOTBALL MIRROR



Mention the name "Bear" or "Bama" and every football fan knows who you are talking about. Paul "Bear" Bryant and the University of Alabama. Two of the greatest names in college football. The glamour of both is captured on the beautiful ALABAMA FOOTBALL MIRROR.

Measuring a full 20"x26" in crimson, white, and sepia, this handsome wood framed pub-style mirror features images of Bear, plus the names of Tide All Americans, coaches, and people synonymous with Alabama's 90 years of football inscribed around the mirror border.

This is a great way for fans to show their loyalty. It becomes a focal point for conversations when entertaining friends.

Produced by a proven silk screen process, the ALABAMA FOOTBALL MIRROR makes the perfect gift for loyal fans to hang in that special place in their office, den, or party room.

The **ALABAMA FOOTBALL MIRROR** is priced at $45 each, plus $4 per mirror for shipping and handling. Complete the coupon and make check or money order payable to:

DG ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 9002
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

Please send me _____ (QTY.) **ALABAMA MIRRORS.**

Enclosed is my remittance for $_____

NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

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Introducing Schlitz in the new 12 oz. classic bottle. A great new way to enjoy Schlitz. Every drop carefully aged and chill-lagered for superior quality. Schlitz is expertly brewed with the very finest barley malt, cereal grains, select hops and purest water. Enjoy Schlitz today in the new classic bottle.

Schlitz makes it greater

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